

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are as follows. Claim 30 was amended in order to overcome the formal objection to this claim. Thus, the word "parameters" was inserted after the word "controlling". Also, commas "," were inserted before each "and/or". Withdrawal of these claim objections are respectfully requested.

The Applicant comments upon the prior art rejection of the claims as follows.

The present invention relates to creating a universal control module that can be used in a plurality of different aggregates, such as, in particular, vacuum pumps or compressors. For this purpose claim 30 recites the following:

An electronic control system for aggregates generating compressed air and vacuum, with programmable electronic circuits

for controlling, regulating and monitoring the technical functions of such aggregates, in particular the functions of the compressed air generator or of the vacuum pump and of the associated drives, as well as of the treatment of the compressed air,

wherein the electronic control system is configured as a standardized control system for employment in a multitude of different aggregates for generating compressed air or vacuum, and has an industrial PC or industrial microcomputer monitored and controlled by an operating system and comprising one or a plurality of microprocessors and a central data memory containing at least controlling and regulating software and a multitude of aggregate-specific data profiles in a recallable manner, said data profiles comprising the data belonging to the aggregates and their components with respect to the controlling and regulating algorithms and/or the controlling parameters and/or the regulating parameters and/or the technical characteristics and limit values and/or the aggregate-specific occupancy of the inputs and outputs.

The adaptation of the control module to the aggregate, in each instance, takes place purely on the software side and is therefore particularly simple and fast. For the purpose of the

adaptation, aggregate-specific data profiles are stored in the memory of the control module, and are loaded for the aggregate, in each instance. In the present U.S. Specification, this functionality is described from the last paragraph on page 3 to the first paragraph on page 4. Claim 30 recites these characteristics required for technical implementation:

"(...) a central data memory containing (...) a multitude of aggregate-specific data profiles in a recallable manner, said data profiles comprising the data belonging to the aggregates and their components (...)"

A control module according to the invention, used in a compressor, differs from a control module according to the present invention, used in a vacuum pump, merely by the data profile that is loaded. The first control module has the compressor-specific data profile loaded into it, and the second control module has the data profile belonging to the vacuum pump. In other words, the aggregate-specific orientation of the data profiles is essential to the invention, limitations that claim 30 actually recites twice:

"(...) aggregate-specific data profiles (...) belonging to the aggregates (...)"

The Cox U.S. Patent No. 5,980,695 discloses an apparatus for vacuum distillation of contaminated solutions. The apparatus comprises, among other things, a vacuum pump and a compressor. These and the other usual aggregates of the apparatus are controlled by a computer, in the memory of which various data profiles are stored.

A significant difference as compared with the present invention, however, consists in the fact that the data profiles in the system according to Cox et al. are solution-specific, i.e. process-specific, but not aggregate-specific. Thus column 13, lines 49-55 of Cox read:

"Processing characteristics and parameters (e.g., vapor temperature, heating oil temperature) of all the solvents in the menu are stored in memory in the system controller 200, along with general operating parameters associated with the processing of all solvents or evaporative compounds, such as refrigeration operating limits".

Cox et al. want to make the control of the apparatus adaptable to different solutions, in order to thereby improve the process guidance:

"A further object of the present invention is to provide a system that allows (...) the adaptability to accommodate the requirements specific to processing different solvents and different contaminants." (See paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4).

On the other hand, the present invention provides how to make the single, standardized control adaptable to different aggregates, in order to thereby allow simpler production, maintenance, and start-up:

"The problem of the invention, therefore, is to provide a novel electronic control system for aggregates generating compressed air and vacuums that permits in spite of great variety of types of various aggregates and the different conditions of use, a simple construction, manufacture, assembly, start-up, maintenance, error search and repair."

(Please see U.S. Specification on Page 2, last paragraph to page 3, first paragraph).

The present invention already differs from the prior art system based on the object, and this, in the final analysis, has its impact in the different orientation of the data profiles.

Furthermore, the disclosure according to Cox et al. does not contain any indication that the control of the known system could also be used in a completely different system.

With this background, the cited reference neither anticipates the present invention, nor does it make it obvious to a person skilled in the art. Instead, there are fundamental differences both in the concept of the claimed invention and in its recited structural features.

For all these reasons, this one prior art reference fails to provide an identical disclosure of the claimed invention. Hence, the present invention is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In summary, claim 30 has been amended; and claims 3-6, 9, 11-29, 31 and 32 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that all the claims be allowed and that this case be

passed to issue.

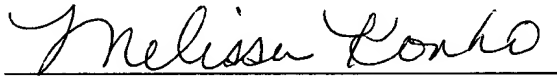
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 23, 2005.



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